



PRESS RELEASE
OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAN BURTON
FIFTH DISTRICT, INDIANA
2185 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2276 FAX (202) 225-0016

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CONTACT: STEPHEN E. SCHATZ
(202) 225-2276

CONGRESSMAN BURTON INTRODUCES PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, Congressman Dan Burton [R-IN-05], a Senior Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources introduced the *Reducing Fraudulent and Imitation Drugs (RFID) Act of 2006* in response to the growing scourge of fraudulent, imitation and counterfeit prescription drugs.

The legislation calls for the phased-in incorporation of counterfeit-resistant mechanisms, such as track-and-trace technologies, tamper-indicating security measures, and blister security packs, into the packaging of prescription drugs.

"This legislation is about safety and security. We need to ensure the safety of the American consumer as well as ensure and verify the security of the prescription drug supply-chain in order to protect Americans from potentially harmful counterfeit drugs," stated Congressman Burton.

According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that approximately 10% of global pharmaceutical commerce is counterfeit, and that number is expected to double to 20% by the year 2010 – as narco-traffickers and terrorist-related groups enter the highly lucrative counterfeit drug market. These counterfeit drugs pose a serious health risk to those Americans you inadvertently take tampered drugs.

"This bill is about protecting consumers from counterfeit drugs. Track-and-trace technology is already in use to ensure the authenticity of software, electronics, and even livestock. American consumers should have the same confidence in the prescription drugs they need every day," stated original co-sponsor, Congressman Gil Gutknecht of Minnesota.

The *RFID Act* seeks to ensure that the prescription drugs American consumers take are truly the drugs their medical practitioners have prescribed. The legislation complements the current track-and-trace operations of pharmaceutical companies, such as Pfizer and Purdue Pharma, and effectively phases-in the tracking of prescription drugs through the U.S. supply chain to ensure the authenticity and ultimately the pedigree of all prescription drugs.

"Initiatives to incorporate identification and tamper-indicating technologies serve to provide additional safety assurances to the physician and the pharmacist, and also confirms that the distributor takes the safety of patients very seriously," said Rolando De Cardenas, Vice President of Distribution for US Oncology.

"Before the growing scourge of fraudulent, imitation, and counterfeit prescription drugs grows even worse, we have a unique opportunity to work with the pharmaceutical companies, packagers, wholesalers, distributors, and pharmacies to ensure the safety and protection of the American consumer from potentially dangerous counterfeit drugs" stated Congressman Burton.

Original co-sponsors include: Rep. Gutknecht [MN-01], Rep. Souder [IN-03], Rep. Sanders [VT-AL], Rep. Emanuel [IL-05], Rep. Herseth [SD-AL], Rep. Northup [KY-03], Rep. Peter DeFazio [OR-04], and Rep. Walter B. Jones [NC-03].